BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)))
JAMILA DANISHWAR, M.D.) File No. 8002014005866
Physician's and Surgeon's)
Certificate No. A102800)
Respondent)
)

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2018.

IT IS SO ORDERED February 28, 2018.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By:

Ronald H. Lewis, Chair

Panel A

	II :	•
1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California	
2	ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General KAROLYN M. WESTFALL	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 234540	
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800	
	San Diego, CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266	
6	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 738-9465	
7	Facsimile: (619) 645-2061	
8	Attorneys for Complainant	
9		
10	BEFO	RE THE
11	DEPARTMENT OF C	O OF CALIFORNIA CONSUMER AFFAIRS
12	STATE OF C	CALIFORNIA
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2014-005866
14	JAMILA DANISHWAR, M.D.	OAH No. 2017080413
15	2185 Citracado Parkway Escondido, CA 92029	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	DISCIPLINARY ORDER
17	No. A102800,	
	Respondent.	·
18		
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-	
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:	
21	<u>PARTIES</u>	
22	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board	
23	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in	
24	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Karolyn M.	
25	Westfall, Deputy Attorney General.	
26	2. Respondent Jamila Danishwar, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding	
27	by attorney Carlo Coppo, Esq., whose address is: 1925 Palomar Oaks Way, Ste. 220, Carlsbad,	
28	CA, 92008.	
		·

3. On or about February 22, 2008, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A102800 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2014-005866, and will expire on August 31, 2019, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On May 24, 2017, Accusation No. 800-2014-005866 was filed against Respondent before the Board. A true and correct copy of the Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 24, 2017. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 800-2014-005866 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2014-005866. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent agrees that, at an administrative hearing, Complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2014-005866, and that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.

A102800 to disciplinary action. Respondent further agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

9. Respondent agrees that if an accusation is filed against her before the Board, or in any other proceeding before the Board, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2014-005866 shall be deemed true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for purposes of any such proceeding or any other licensing proceeding involving Respondent in the State of California.

CONTINGENCY

- 10. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it.
- and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Board does not, in its discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any

member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 12. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- 13. The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies shall have the same force and effect as originals.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent Jamila Danishwar, M.D.'s Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A102800, shall be and is hereby Publicly Reprimanded pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This Public Reprimand, which is issued in connection with Accusation No. 800-2014-005866, is as follows:

On November 10, 2011, you provided treatment to patient J.G., after she was transported to the emergency room in cervical spine precautions by paramedics following a motor vehicle accident. Patient J.G. was initially evaluated by another emergency department physician who cleared the patient from spinal precautions and then transferred the patient to you. Patient J.G. informed you that she had previously been diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis. You evaluated the patient, provided her with pain medication, and ordered radiologic imaging of her cervical spine and chest. During this encounter, you failed to maintain cervical spinal immobilization precautions on the patient in the presence of acute neck pain, focal neurologic complaints, and history of trauma. After reviewing the radiologist's preliminary impression of the x-rays, which noted that "C6-C7 not visible otherwise no fractures,"

you discharged the patient, despite failing to obtain appropriate and adequate imaging of the patient's cervical spine.

In addition, your medical record for the patient encounter did not contain positive or negative findings, a complete neurological examination, any reference to the patient's pre-existing ankylosing spondylitis, and your medical decision-making was not thoroughly documented.

1. <u>CLINICAL COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a clinical competence assessment program approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall successfully complete the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension of that time.

The program shall consist of a comprehensive assessment of Respondent's physical and mental health and the six general domains of clinical competence as defined by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and American Board of Medical Specialties pertaining to Respondent's current or intended area of practice. The program shall take into account data obtained from the pre-assessment, self-report forms and interview, and the Decision, Accusation, and any other information that the Board or its designee deems relevant. The program shall require Respondent's on-site participation for a minimum of three (3) and no more than five (5) days as determined by the program for the assessment and clinical education evaluation. Respondent shall pay all expenses associated with the clinical competence assessment program.

At the end of the evaluation, the program will submit a report to the Board or its designee which unequivocally states whether the Respondent has demonstrated the ability to practice safely and independently. Based on Respondent's performance on the clinical competence assessment, the program will advise the Board or its designee of its recommendation(s) for the scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, evaluation or treatment for any medical condition or psychological condition, or anything else affecting Respondent's practice of medicine. Respondent shall comply with the program's recommendations.

Determination as to whether Respondent successfully completed the clinical competence

assessment program is solely within the program's jurisdiction.

If Respondent fails to enroll, participate in, or successfully complete the clinical competence assessment program within the designated time period, Respondent shall receive a notification from the Board or its designee to cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendar days after being so notified. Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until enrollment or participation in the outstanding portions of the clinical competence assessment program have been completed. If Respondent did not successfully complete the clinical competence assessment program, Respondent shall not resume the practice of medicine until a final decision has been rendered on the Accusation.

Any failure to fully comply with this term and condition of the Disciplinary Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and will subject Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate to further disciplinary action.

2. <u>COMMUNITY SERVICE - FREE SERVICES</u>. Respondent shall, within one year of the effective date of this Decision, provide eighty (80) hours of free services (e.g., medical or nonmedical) to a community or non-profit organization.

Prior to engaging in any community service, Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision to the chief of staff, director, office manager, program manager, officer, or the chief executive officer at every community or non-profit organization where Respondent provides community service and shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days. This condition shall also apply to any change(s) in community service.

Community service performed prior to the effective date of the Decision shall not be accepted in fulfillment of this condition.

Any failure to fully comply with this term and condition of the Disciplinary Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and will subject Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate to further disciplinary action.

3. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u>. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 40 hours. The educational program(s) or

course(s) shall be aimed at the evaluation of educational program(s) or course(s) shall be the Continuing Medical Education (CME) shall successfully complete the pre-approximate of the effective date of this Decision.

Any failure to fully comply with this constitute unprofessional conduct and will Certificate to further disciplinary action.

4. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING date of this Decision, Respondent shall entradvance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall participate in and successions.

course(s) shall be aimed at the evaluation of trauma, and shall be Category I certified. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Respondent shall successfully complete the pre-approved educational program(s) or course(s) within one (1) year of the effective date of this Decision.

Any failure to fully comply with this term and condition of the Disciplinary Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and will subject Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate to further disciplinary action.

4. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE. Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

Any failure to fully comply with this term and condition of the Disciplinary Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and will subject Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate to further disciplinary action.

ACCEPTANCE I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully 2 discussed it with my attorney, Carlo Coppo, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it 3 will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California. 6 DATED: 7 Réspondent I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Jamila Danishwar, M.D. the terms and 9 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. 10 11 I approve its form and content. 12 DATED: CARLO COPPO, ESOS 13 Attorney for Respondent 14 **ENDORSEMENT** 15 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully 16 submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. 17 Dated: Respectfully submitted, 18 XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California 19 ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ Supervising Deputy Attorney General 20 22 Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant SD2017705061

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2014-005866

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1	XAVIER BECERRA		
2	Attorney General of California ALEXANDRA M. ALVAREZ		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General	FILED	
. 1	KAROLYN M. WESTFALL Deputy Attorney General	STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA	
4	State Bar No. 234540 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800	SACRAMENTO/May 24 20 17	
. 5.	San Diego, CA 92101	BY ANALYST	
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266		
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9465 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9			
10		N. 1977-1	
11	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
12	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
		1	
13 14	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2014-005866	
	JAMILA DANISHWAR, M.D.	ACCUSATION	
15	2185 Citracado Parkway Escondido, CA 92029		
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate		
· 17	No. A102800,		
18	Respondent.	• • • •	
19			
1			
20	Complainant alleges:		
21	<u>PARTIES</u>		
22	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official		
23	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer		
24	Affairs (Board).		
25	2. On or about February 22, 2008, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's		
26 .	Certificate No. A102800 to Jamila Danishwar, M.D. (respondent). The Physician's and		
27	Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought		
28	herein and will expire on August 31, 2019, unless renewed.		

ACCUSATION NO. 800-2014-005866

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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
 - 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:
 - "(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the board, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
 - "(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the board.
 - "(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the board.
 - "(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the board.
 - "(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the board. The public reprimand may include a requirement that the licensee complete relevant educational courses approved by the board.
 - "(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the board or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
 - "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the board and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1."

5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.

" "

6. Section 2266 of the Code states:

"The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

7. Respondent has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A102800 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of

 the Code, in that she committed gross negligence in her care and treatment of patient J.G., as more particularly alleged hereinafter:

- 8. On or about November 10, 2011, patient J.G. was transported to the emergency room (ER) by paramedics after she was involved in a motor vehicle accident, where she was reportedly T-boned on the driver's side at approximately 35 miles per hour. Patient J.G. had been able to extricate herself from the vehicle, but was placed in cervical spine precautions by the paramedics, including a cervical collar and backboard, prior to transport.
- 9. At approximately 1:33 p.m., the patient arrived at the ER, with complaints of neck pain, pain between her scapulae, and numbness to her right fingers. Patient J.G. reported her pain level to be an 8 out of 10. Patient J.G. was briefly evaluated by Dr. P.B., who removed her from the cervical collar and backboard just prior to the end of his shift.
- 10. Patient J.G.'s care was then assumed by respondent, who had just come on shift. Respondent proceeded to take a history from the patient. At that time, the patient revealed that she was being treated for ankylosing spondylitis, that her upper cervical pain was new since the accident, and that she was experiencing intermittent numbness in her fingers on the right side.
- 11. During her physical examination, respondent noted tenderness over the C2-C3 region with no step-offs, and upper thoracic spine tenderness.
- 12. Respondent treated patient J.G.'s pain with Dilaudid (Hydromorphone) and Toradol (Ketorolac), and ordered radiologic imaging of the patient's cervical spine and chest.
- 13. At approximately 3:10 p.m., x-rays were taken as ordered. Respondent reviewed the radiologist's preliminary impression of the x-rays, which noted that "C6-C7 not visible otherwise no fractures.^[2]"
- 14. At approximately 3:30 p.m., respondent reevaluated the patient. At that time, patient J.G. indicated she was feeling better and was experiencing less pain. Respondent noted the

Ankylosing spondylitis is an inflammatory arthritis affecting the spine and large joints.

² The radiologist's formal report became available some time later and indicated, in part, "Suboptimal evaluation of the lower aspect of the cervical spine. Specifically the C6 and C7 levels. Consider further evaluation with CT..."

patient had no tenderness or step-offs in the lower cervical spine, and discharged the patient with instructions to follow-up with her primary care physician, and to return to the ER for worsening pain, weakness, or numbness in the extremities.

- 15. Patient J.G.'s medical chart for the care rendered by respondent on or about November 10, 2011, did not initially contain a History of Present Illness (HPI).³ In addition, the review of systems section did not contain pertinent positive or negative findings, the physical examination section did not contain a complete neurological examination, and the medical decision-making was not thoroughly documented.
- 16. On or about November 15, 2011, patient J.G. continued to experience persistent symptoms of pain and numbness, and presented to her primary care physician (PCP). Her PCP ordered an MRI, which was taken on or about November 16, 2011. The MRI results raised concerns for traumatic anterolisthesis⁴ of C6 and C7, and patient J.G. was then instructed to return to the ER for further care.
- 17. On or about November 17, 2011, patient J.G. returned to the ER and was seen by Dr. B.F. In or around that time, Dr. B.F. noted that respondent had not completed the HPI section in patient J.G.'s medical chart on or about November 10, 2011, and contacted respondent by phone to inform her that her note was incomplete. Shortly after receiving that call, respondent entered an addendum in the patient's chart to include the HPI. The HPI was documented from respondent's memory, and did not contain any reference to the patient's pre-existing ankylosing spondylitis.
- 18. While in the ER on or about November 17, 2011, a CT scan was obtained from patient J.G., which showed a fracture dislocation at C6-C7 with grade 3 anterolisthesis. Patient J.G. was then transferred to Palomar Medical Center as a trauma activation.

³ The HPI was completed by respondent approximately one week later when the patient was readmitted to the ER.

⁴ Anterolisthesis is a spine condition in which the upper vertebral body slips forward onto the vertebra below. The amount of slippage is graded on a scale from 1 to 4.

- 19. After being transported to Palomar Medical Center, patient J.G. continued to experience deterioration of the neurologic status of her lower extremities. On or about November 18, 2011, after submitting to multiple procedures, patient J.G. developed acute quadriparesis that did not resolve.
- 20. Respondent committed gross negligence in her care and treatment of patient J.G. by failing to obtain appropriate and adequate imaging of the patient's cervical spine.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 21. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A102800 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (c), of the Code, in that she committed repeated negligent acts in her care and treatment of patient J.G., as more particularly alleged hereinafter:
- 22. Paragraphs 7 through 20, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 23. Respondent committed repeated negligent acts in her care and treatment of patient J.G. which included, but was not limited to, the following:
 - (a) Failing to obtain appropriate and adequate imaging of the patient's cervical spine;
 - (b) Failing to properly document a History of Present Illness and pertinent positive and negative findings in the Review of Systems in the patient's chart; and
 - (c) Failing to maintain cervical spinal immobilization precautions on the patient in the presence of acute neck pain, focal neurologic complaints, and history of trauma.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Maintain Adequate and Accurate Records)

24. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.

A102800 to disciplinary action under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2266, of the Code, in that she failed to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to her care and